

**CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION**

**Town Hall**  
Room 212  
135 School Street  
Walpole, MA 02081  
Phone (508) 660-7268  
Fax (508) 668-2071

**Town of Walpole**  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**MINUTES**  
**Approved 11/8/2023**



**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2023**  
**7:00 PM**

**This meeting was taped and will be available on walpolemedia.tv**

Commissioners Present: Jack Wiley (Chair), Betsey Dyer, Al Goetz, Emidio DiVirgilio, Doug Burchesky, Bailey Ziemba, Dean Bebis & Landis Hershey, Conservation Agent

Absent: None

Wiley opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND DISCUSSIONS:**

***Notice of Intent Application: Washington Street Culvert Replacement, DEP #315-1299; Town of Walpole***

Wiley read the public notice into record.

Agents from Weston & Samson representing the Town of Walpole provided an overview of the project which includes the replacement of an existing stone box culvert with a new pre-cast concrete box culvert. The existing culvert is starting to fail as the stone slabs shift and deteriorate which could lead to unwanted erosion or the formation of a sinkhole under the street. The new culvert will have a hydraulic opening that is 8-feet wide and 6-feet tall. Permanent impacts to the river bank include grading to allow the installment of the new culvert. In addition, a cage will be installed offset from the opening of the culvert to deter beavers from damming the mouth of the culvert. A pipe will allow water to pass through the cage even if beavers dam the cage.

Hershey noted that the new culvert doesn't conform to the Stream Crossing Standards, in particular the openness requirement. The requirement was intentionally unmet since it was determined that creating an opening significantly larger than what the existing culvert allows would fundamentally change the hydrology of the area to a detriment of the resource area.

Bebis inquired about what form of Erosion Control Barrier will be used during the project. It was explained that the project will have a stream bypass that will end with a turbidity curtain and sediment bag.

Burchesky inquired if the new culvert opening will be 8x6 as referenced in the dimensions of the pre-cast box. It was answered that the box will be buried two feet into the bed, making the opening 8x4.

DiVirgilio questioned when the project will begin and how long it will take. The applicant representatives answered that the project is likely to begin next year.

Dyer inquired about the beavers associated with the damming at the existing culvert. It was relayed that the beavers were removed by a private firm after damming occurring up against the culvert.

Wiley asked how the dewatering process will occur. The applicant's representatives expressed that they will be using a combination of pumps and sedimentation basins.

Hershey inquired where the excavated material will be held. It was explained that the material will be trucked off site to be dewatered, but will be dry enough so as to not leave a trail. Hershey suggested conditioning where the alterations and what the alterations to the wetlands are to be added to the plans.

A motion to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions for the Washington Street Culvert Replacement, DEP #315-1299, was made by Goetz; seconded by Dyer. Motion carries 7-0-0 (Wiley, Dyer, Goetz, DiVirgilio, Burchesky, Ziemba, Bebis).

***Land Disturbance Permit: 231 Moosehill Road; League School***

A motion to continue the Land Disturbance Permit Hearing for 231 Moosehill Road to November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:30PM was made by Goetz; seconded by Dyer. Motion carries 7-0-0 (Wiley, Dyer, Goetz, DiVirgilio, Burchesky, Ziemba, Bebis).

***Modification Discussion: Reconstruction of Route 1A, DEP #315-1221; MASSDOT***

Wiley introduced the discussion before handing it over to the applicant's representative.

Eric Corman, MASSDOT, provided an overview of the modification which includes replacing the existing failed concrete culvert with a 24-inch RC pipe to prevent collapse of the road. The new connection would be tied into an existing manhole system to keep the water underground or in the existing system without undermining the road.

Hershey noted that the modifications will occur in the envelope of the already permitted work area through DEP permit #315-1221 which already had minimal impacts on surrounding resource areas and suggests the proposal be accepted as a minor modification to the Order.

DiVirgilio inquired if the road would be taken out to do the work. Corman answered that it would, but they were going to remove it regardless for permitted road reworking.

Dyer inquired if a downstream neighborhood would be getting more flooding as a result of the work. Corman answered that the culvert as it currently is does not have a heavy current and nearby infiltration basins were covered by landscape debris, which caused some ground level flooding.

Goetz commented that it would be pertinent to install the pipe now before the culvert fails.

A motion to accept the modification to DEP #315-1221 as a minor change was made by Goetz; seconded by Dyer. Motion carries 7-0-0 (Wiley, Dyer, Goetz, DiVirgilio, Burchesky, Ziemba, Bebis).

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

### ***Expenditure of Conservation Commission Trust Funds***

A motion to approve the use of Conservation Commission Trust Funds for the removal of a fallen tree from an abutter to Conservation Land's property was made by Goetz; seconded by DiVirgilio. Motion carries 6-0-1 (Wiley, Goetz, DiVirgilio, Burchesky, Ziemba, Bebis, with Dyer Abstaining).

### ***2024 Meeting Schedule***

A motion to accept the 2024 Meeting Schedule was made by Goetz; seconded by Dyer. Motion carries 7-0-0 (Wiley, Dyer, Goetz, DiVirgilio, Burchesky, Ziemba, Bebis).

### ***Fiscal Year 2025 Draft Budget***

A motion to accept the drafted Fiscal Year 2025 Budget was made by Goetz; seconded by Dyer. Motion carries 7-0-0 (Wiley, Dyer, Goetz, DiVirgilio, Burchesky, Ziemba, Bebis).

## **Certificates of Compliance**

### ***Certificate of Compliance: 295 Union Street, DEP #315-1250; Tesla Inc.***

A motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 295 Union Street, DEP #315-1250, was made by Goetz; seconded by Dyer. Motion carries 7-0-0 (Wiley, Dyer, Goetz, DiVirgilio, Burchesky, Ziemba, Bebis).

## **Minutes**

### ***10/11/2023 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes:***

A motion to approve the 10/11/2023 Conservation Meeting Minutes as amended was made by Dyer; seconded by DiVirgilio. Motion passes 4-0-3 (Dyer, Goetz, DiVirgilio, Ziemba).

**The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.**